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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When an image contains a frame image representing a white frame, highlight portions except the frame are influenced by the white color of the frame, and gradation is not appropriately corrected. Hence, no sufficient dynamic range for gradation can be obtained. To prevent this, a frame recognition section (8) detects a frame image contained in an input image. A highlight/shadow calculation section (6) and a white balance calculation section (7) generate correction information of an image portion other than the detected frame image. An image correction section (10) corrects gradation of the image portion other than the frame image on the basis of the generated correction information.

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